15 Words 15c % Farmer Classified Ads % Phone 1208



that rain"-

you but a minute"-

gloomily. "Good night, old man."

Paddock spee up the stairs to his

room, which was on the second floor.

im through the deserted lobby Mr.

'im O'Malley, the house detective of

"Can we see you a minute in the of-

"Certainly," Minot answered. "But

-I'm soaked through-was out in all

"Too bad," said O'Malley, with a

sympathetic glance. "We won't keep

He led the way, and, wondering,

Minot followed. In the tiny office of

the hotel manager a bullet headed man

"My friend, Mr. Huntley of the se-

"Search me! For what?" Minot cried. And in a flash he knew. Through

that wild night he had not once thought

"What does this mean?" he asked.

Huntley. "Come here, my boy. Say,

you're pretty wet. And shivering!

Better have a warm bath and a drink.

With practiced fingers the detective

explored rapidly Mr. Minot's person

and pockets. The victim of the search

stood fimp, helpless. What could he

do? There was no escape. It was all

up now. For whatever reason they de-

sired Chain Lightning's collar they

could not fail to have it in another

Side pockets - trousers pockets -

now! The inner coat pocket! Its con-

tents were in the detective's hand.

Minot stared down. A-little gasp es-

The envelope that held Chain Light-

Two minutes longer Huntley pur-

Minot swept aside the profuse apolo-

gies of the hotel detective and some-

how got out of the room. In a daze,

he sought 389. He didn't have it-

didn't have Chain Lightning's collar!

It was while he sat steaming in a

The struggle on the deck of the Lileth,

with Martin Wall panting at his side!

The tug on his coat as they all went

down together. The genial sprits of

Wall thereafter. The sudden start for

As completely at sea as he had been

that night, which was more or less at

sea, Minot returned to his room. It

was after 3 o'clock. He turned out

The sun was bright outside his win-

dows when he was aroused by a knock.

"A package for you, sir," said a bell-

He slipped one arm outside his door

to receive it, a neat little bundle, se-

curely tied, with his name written on

the wrappings. Sleepily he undid the

He was no longer sleepy. He held

the envelope open over his bed. Chain

Lightning's collar tumbled, gleaming,

Also in the package was a note,

I have decided not to go north after all.

and am Lack in the harbor with the Lileth.

As I expect Trimmer at any moment I

have sent George over to Tarragona island

P. S .- You dropped the inclosed in the

At 10 o'clock that Saturday morning

Lord Harrowby was engrossed in the

ceremony of breakfast in his rooms. For the occasion he wore an orange

and purple dressing gown with a floral

design no botanist could have sanc-

tioned-the sort of dressing gown that

Arnold Bennett, had he seen it, would

have made a leading character in a

novel. He was cheerful, was Harrow.

by, and as he glanced through an old

copy of the London Times he made

strange noises in his throat, under the

impression that he was humming a

There was a knock, and Harrowby

cried, "Come in." Mr. Minot, fresh as

the morning and nowhere near so hot,

"Feeling pretty satisfied with life.

"My dear chap, gay as-as-a robin,"

"Snatch your last giggle," said Mi-

not. "Have one final laugh and make

I'll wager," Minot suggested.

it a good one. Then wake up."

Harrowby replied.

musical comedy chorus.

MARTIN WALL.

in charge of two sailormen for the day

cord and took out-an envelope.

which Minot read breathlessly: .

scuffle on the boat last night.

upon the white sheet!

Dear Mr. Minots

his lights and sought his bed.

"What is it?" he cried.

sued; then, with an oath of disappoint-

ning's collar was not among them!

ment, he turned to O'Malley.

"Hasn't got it!" he announced.

caped him.

Who did?

New York.

boy's voice.

Turn around, please. Ah"-

"That's what they all say," grunted

cret service," O'Malley explained. "Aw ful sorry that this should happen, Mr.

Minot, but we got to search you."

and Minot turned toward the elevator.

Once more Paddock started his faithful engine, and, hallooing madly, the three set out in pursuit. Not yet had the Lileth struck its gait, and in fif- At that moment he saw approaching teen minutes they were alongside. Martin Wall, beholding them from the deck, had a rather unexpected attack | the De la Pax. of pity and stopped his engines. The three limp watchers were taken aboard. fice, Mr. Minot?" he asked. "Wha-what does this mean?" chattered Minot.

"You poor devils!" said Martin Wall. 'Come and have a d ink. Mean?" He



"Sha's steaming out to seal"

paused. "It means that the only way I could get rid of our friend Trimmer was to set out for New York." "For New York?" cried Minot, stand-

ing glass in hand. "Yes. Came on board, Trimmer did," searched the boat and then declared I'd shipped George away until his visit should be over. So he and his friends -one of them the chief of police, by the way-sat down to wait for your return. Gad! I thought of you out in hot bath that an idea came to him. that rain-sat and sat and sat. What could I do?"

"To Trimmer, the brute!" said Paddock, raising his glass.

"Finally I had an idea. I had the boys pull up anchor and start the engines. Trimmer wanted to know the auswer. 'Leaving for New York tonight.' I said. 'Want to come along?' He wasn't sure whether he would go or not, but his friends were sure they aboard? wouldn't. Put up an awful howl, and just before we got under way Mr. Trimmer and party crawled into their rowboat and splashed back to San Marco."

"Well, what now?" asked Minot. "I've made up my mind," said Wall. "Been intending to go back north for some time, and now that I've started I guess I'll keep on going."

"Splendid," cried Minot. "And you'll take Mr. George Harrowby with you?" Mr. Wall seemed in excellent spirits. He slapped Minot on the back.

"If you say so, of course. Don't know exactly what they can do to us, but I think George needs the sea air.

How about it, your lordship?" Poor old George: drooping as he had never drooped before, looked wearily

into Wall's eyes. "What's the use?" he said. "Fight's all gone out of me. Losing interest in what's next. Three hours on that

blooming ocean with the rain soaking in-I'm going to bed. I don't care what becomes of me.' And he sloshed away to his cabin.

"Well, boys, I'm afraid we'll have to put you off," said Martin Wall. "Glad to have met both of you. Some time in New York we may run into each other again."

He shook hands genially, and the two young men dropped once more into that unhappy launch. As they speds toward the shore the Lileth, behind them, was heading for the open

"Sorry if I've seemed to have grouch tonight," said Paddock as the walked up the deserted avenue toward the hotel. "But these Florida rainstorms aren't the pleasantest things to wear next to one's skin. I apologize. Dick."

"Nonsense." Minot answered. "Old Job himself would have frowned a bit if he'd been through what you have sonight. It was my fault for getting you into it"-

"Forget it." Paddock said. "Well, it looks like a we ding, old man. The letters home again and George Harrowby headed for New York-a three days' trip. Nothing to hinder now.

"Wake up? Why, I am awake"-Have you thought of that?" "Oh, no, you're dreaming on a bed "I don't want to think," said Minot of roses. Listen! Martin Wall didn't



of it. But it was still in his inside go north with the impostor after all. coat pocket, of course. Chain Light- | Changed his mind. Look!"



"For New York?" cried Minot. And Minot tessed something on the table just abaft his lordship's eggs.

No question about it-Chain Light-"The devil! Chain Lightning's colning's collar was well out at sea now. lar!" cried Harrowby. And yet why had Wall stopped to "Back to its original storage vault," take the occupants of the launch said Minot. "What is this, Harrowby-

a Drury Lane melodrama?"

"My word! I can't make it out." "Can't you? Got the necklace back this morning with a note from Martin Wall saying I dropped it last night in the scrap on the deck of the Lileth." "Confound the thing!" sighed Harrowby, staring morosely at the dia-

"My first impulse," said Minot, "is to hand the necklace back to you and gracefully withdraw. But of course I'm here to look after Jephson's inter-

ests"-"Naturally," put in Harrowby quickyou again. If I took it, dear old chap, they search me every little while." "You didn't steal this, did you?" Mi-

knows that."

"Well, what is the trouble?" "I'll explain it all later. There's

the world look at such things. I give you my word that you can serve Mr. United States currency. The second Jephson best by keeping the necklace is devoted to the issues of national for the present and seeing to it that it bank notes under Congressional authdoes not fall into the hands of the ority. A third, soon to be arranged. men who are looking for it."

Minot sat staring gloomily ahead of him. Then he reached out, took up the necklace and restored it to his pocket. "Oh, very well," he said. "If I'm sent to jail tell Thacker I went singing an epithalamium." He rose. "By the way." Harrowby remarked,

I'm giving a little dinner tonight at you?" "Surely," Minot smiled, "I'll be

there wearing our necklace." "My dear fellow-ah, I see you mean it pleasantly. Wear it by all means." Minot passed from the eccentri blooms of that dressing gown to th more authentic flowers of the Floric outdoors. In the plaza he met Cynth Meyrick, rival candid to the time to

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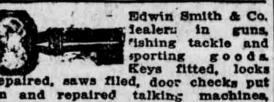
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